STUDY AREA INTRO BRAINSTORMING

For over a century researchers have exploited the incredibly rich and well preserved archaeological record in the Périgord region of France.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RESEARCH

Archaeologically one of the most studied and world renown landscapes

This long history of inquiry, combined with their stunning vistas, has made the caves and shelters of the Dordogne world famous for their Paleolithic occupants.

valley known as La Voie Royale de la Préhistoire check original source and use in arguments about how prehistory has overshadowed the historical record

However, the equally rich Holocene record has been historically understudied.

After 10000 the landscape becomes void yet there is evidence this was not the case

This neglect happens despite the fact that archaeologists, visitors, and inhabitants alike are confronted with the impressive remains of these occupations at every turn in the road.

Archaeological evidence indicates occupations in the valley throughout the protohistoric and historic periods

historical research shows that this was a prominent space in the medieval landscapes

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY AREA

Description

Study area boundaries defined by administrative units

Made up of 43 Communes

1. a. Commune administrative district

Arrondissement de Bergerac

Canton de Sainte-Alvère (1 of 7)

Limeuil

Arrondissement de Périgueux

Canton de Thenon (1 of 11)

Bars

Arrondissement of Sarlat-la-Canéda

Canton du Bugue (9 of 10)

Le Bugue

Campagne

Fleurac

Journiac

Manaurie

Mauzens-et-Miremont

Saint-Cirq

Saint-Félix-de-Reilac-et-Mortemart

Savignac-de-Miremont

Canton de Montignac (14 of 14)

Aubas

Auriac-du-Périgord

La Chapelle-Aubareil
Fanlac
Les Farges
Montignac
Peyzac-le-Moustier
Plazac
Rouffignac-Saint-Cernin-de-Reilhac
Saint-Amand-de-Coly
Saint-Léon-sur-Vézère
Sergeac
Thonac
Valojoulx
Canton de Saint-Cyprien (4 of 14)
Audrix
Les-Eyzies-de-Tayac-Sireuil
Meyrals
Tursac
Canton de Terrasson-Lavilledieu (6 of 16)
La Bachellerie
La Cassagne
Coly
Condat-sur-Vézère
Le Lardin-Saint-Lazare
Terrasson-Lavilledieu
Canton de Sarlat-la-Canéda (5 of 12)
Marcillac-Saint-Quentin
Marquay
Proissans
Saint-André-d’Allas
Tamniès
Canton de Salignac-Eyvigues (3 of 8)
Archignac
Saint-Crépin-et-Carlucet
Saint-Geniès

1. Ancient communes (see Spéléo Dordogne 44)
2. HOW?
   a. Vezere limits mark the location of two major High Medieval villages
   b. communes not along Vezere picked to see life beyond the river (focus on river)
   c. Beune included to get view comparative view of rivers
   d. Lower point out towards Sarlat MAJOR MEDIEVAL VILLAGE but did not include the commune itself
   e. rough square area made—while somewhat arbitrary to choose square designed to include all environments
   f. study area was defined that encompassed both the major river valley, major river tributaries, and the upland regions
3. WHY?
   a. This area is important to our understanding of this key transition in history for three reasons.
      i. First, the topographic relief and landscape variability of the study area combine to create a landscape of immense
         environmental diversity of the region, making it a particularly useful for testing the applicability of settlement hypotheses
from other studies of Medieval settlement patterns.

ii. Second, it is an area of multiple, contested, and overlapping political influences which provides unique insight into the negotiation of political boundaries and state formation.

iii. Finally, this study addresses a major hole in our understanding of the development of the Frankish Kingdom, which is primarily known from sites in the north and east of France.